



United States Department of the Interior

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

DISTRICT MINING OFFICE
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PUEBLO OF LAGUNA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Confidential Claim Retracted

Authorized by: SE

Date: 6/23/13

July 22, 1982

Memorandum

To: Inspection Files, Pueblo of Laguna Uranium Leases 1, 4 and 8

From: District Mining Supervisor

Subject: Field Inspection of the Jackpile-Paguete Mine, Anaconda Minerals Company

July 19, 1982, I conducted the subject inspection with Mr. Earl Arlin and Mr. Elliot Solimon of Anaconda Minerals Company. The primary purpose of the inspection was to observe the condition of the underground mine workings. The condition of these workings will determine the extent of a possible inspection by representatives of the Pueblo of Laguna.

In the P-10 Mine, ground water has risen to about one foot above the track in the haulage drifts (approximate elevation of 5935 feet above sea level). The water has filled the crusher station at the bottom of the decline (floor elevation of about 5909 feet) to the last cutout in the decline. This prevents access to the mine workings from the decline. It appears that surface runoff from rain has flowed down the decline and contributed to the rise of the water level, but this contribution is probably negligible when compared to the natural ground water recharge. Several of the steel sets in the P-10 decline were observed to be taking weight, primarily where the decline penetrates the Mancos or other shale strata. These shale penetrations have always caused ground control problems in the decline, and Anaconda is monitoring these areas and installing stulls as necessary. Mr. Solimon noted that the electrical power line is still intact in the decline, but it is disconnected at the surface. The conveyor belt has been dismantled and removed from the decline.

The rising ground water in the P-10 decline now prevents ventilation of the decline through the main haulage drifts. To maintain ventilation of the decline, Anaconda has removed a stopping in the 002 Haulage Drift which connects with the decline approximately 350 feet above the present ground water level. Fresh air is now pulled down the decline through the 002 Haulage Drift and Stope and other ore level workings and then exhausted to the surface through three ventilation boreholes equipped with surface fans. Personnel access is not possible along this ventilation route because passage through the open 002 Stope is prohibited by law. Anaconda has posted a

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poor ventilation warning in the P-10 decline at its intersection with the 002 Haulage Drift and a hazardous ground warning in the Haulage Drift at its intersection with the 002 Stope. Mr. Solimon noted that Anaconda monitors radon concentrations at the locations of both warnings. From safe access, I examined the open 002 Stope. This Stope is large, but caving does not seem to be excessive.

During the inspection, Mr. Solimon noted that fresh air is also being pulled down the P-7 escapeway which connects the northern end of the P-10 Mine with the surface in the bottom of the South Paguate Pit. Personnel access through this escapeway could be possible, but the extent of that access is unknown.

The P-13 Mine has two adits collared into a highwall of the South Paguate Pit. Ground water has risen to a depth of 2 to 3 feet at both portals, corresponding to the water level in the adjacent P-10 Mine. Access into the P-13 workings would be severely limited by this water and by possibly high radon concentrations due to only natural air circulation through the workings. Mr. Arlin noted that the water level in the upper holding pond at the P-13 portals appeared to have lowered while that in the lower pond had risen. Access to these holding ponds is restricted by chain link fence with a locked gate at the entrance to the pit bottom.

The three adits of the NJ-45 Mine are collared into the highwall of the North Jackpile Pit. Adit 1 is at an elevation of about 5835 feet, and the portal is dry. A small pond of water was visible in the pit bottom near the portal, and Mr. Arlin estimated the level of this water to be about one foot below the Adit floor. None of the NJ-45 workings were accessed by Adit 1. Adits 2 and 3 are at an elevation of about 5918 feet, and both portals are dry. There is a large amount of water ponded in the pit bottom below Adits 2 and 3, and Mr. Arlin noted that this water level appears to have been static for some time. Anaconda had estimated that ground water recharge in this area could reach an elevation of about 5940 feet. Access into the NJ-45 Mine area is restricted by two chain link fences, one with a locked gate.

During the inspection, I observed that Anaconda had installed a chain link fence with a locked gate across the road between Dump 6B and natural ground to the north. This was required to restrict access into the South Jackpile Pit. I also observed that surface runoff is beginning to affect open-pit access roads and create severe gullies in several of the waste dumps. No violations of lease terms, Federal regulations or temporary abandonment requirements were observed.

(ORIG. SGD.) DALE C. JONES

Dale C. Jones

cc: DMM-Mining, SCR
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